

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Robert J. Marshall

Serial No: 10/722,777

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Customer
No. 42419

Title: **STABILIZED DIHYDROLIPOIC ACID
AND METHOD OF PRODUCING SAME**

Group No: 1651

Examiner: Thane E. Underdahl

Confirmation No.: 7232

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed 30 June 2006, Applicant respectfully elects the invention of Group II, drawn to a culture media for producing a stabilized dihydrolipoic acid compound. Claims 4-12 are included in Group II. Applicant further elects, with traverse, the species *Bifobacterium* recited in Claim 5, and in particular *Bifidobacterium longum* as recited in Claim 7. Applicant specifically reserves the right to seek patent protection for non-elected subject matter by divisional application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being electronically deposited with the United States Patent and Trademark Office addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

30 August 2006
8/30/06
Date


Signature